GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:319
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2000
RECLAIMING OF SALINE ALKALINE AND WATER LOGGING
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for reclaiming of saline, alkaline and water logging areas from various States during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.319 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2000 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): Yes, Sir. Karnataka and Gujarat States submitted proposals for reclaiming saline soils; in respect of alkali soils proposals were received from Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; proposals in respect of reclamation of waterlogged areas were received from Kerala, Karnataka, Orissa, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh during the last two years.

(b): The State-wise and year-wise details of proposals received during the last two years for reclamation of saline, alkali and waterlogged areas are at Annexure-I.

An Indo-Dutch Operational Pilot Project for Reclamation of Saline Soil is under implementation in the State of Haryana to reclaim 2000 ha. with a total cost of Rs.21.79 crores. A Central Sector Scheme for Technology Development, Extension and Training for development of non-forest waste lands which includes saline and waterlogged areas is also being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources) on pilot basis in the States of Haryana, Orissa, Punjab and Rajasthan.

(c): Saline Soils: At present, there is no Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Reclamation of Saline Soils. However, a Joint Central Team was constituted to study the gravity of the soil salinity problem in the country. The Central Team recommended that pilot project for saline reclamation be set up in the States of Gujarat, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh where the magnitude of saline soil is the highest.

Alkaline Soils: For reclamation of alkaline soils a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under implementation since VII Five Year Plan. During the IX Five Year Plan the Scheme has been extended to the States having alkalinity problem as per Annexure-II. In addition, two externally aided projects to tackle the problem with the assistance of World Bank and EEC are under implementation in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Waterlogging: Preventive measures for control of waterlogging in irrigated command is being taken up as part of Command Area Development activity in the States of Kerala, Karnataka, Orissa, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

ANNEXURE-I

STATE-WISE AND YEAR-WISE DETAILS OF PROPOSALS RECEIVED DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS FOR RECLAMATION OF SALINE, ALKALI AND WATERLOGGED AREAS.

Name of the State	Area to be reclaimed as per the proposal
1998-99	

Saline Soil Karnataka 24000.00 ha.
Alkali Soil Haryana 9000.00 ha.
Punjab 20730.00 ha.
Bihar 2000.00 ha.
Waterlogged Areas Kerala 16548.22 ha.
Karnataka 397.57 ha.
Orissa 409.54 ha.
Bihar 4291.60 ha.
Uttar Pradesh 1345.00 ha.
Jammu & Kashmir 6500.00 ha.
1999-2000

Saline Soil Gujarat 34137.00 ha.
Alkali Soil Haryana 9765.00 ha.
Punjab 9889.00 ha.
Uttar Pradesh 10000.00 ha.
Waterlogged Areas Orissa 508.45 ha.
Gujarat 1290.00 ha.
Madhya Pradesh 1437.00 ha.
Bihar 4022.00 ha.
Uttar Pradesh 2576.00 ha.

ANNEXURE-II

STATE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF ESTIMATED AREA UNDER ALKALI SOIL

(Area in lakh ha.)

S.No.	Name of State	Alkali soil area
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.64
2.	Bihar	0.04
3.	Gujarat ++	9.42
4.	Haryana	4.50
5.	Karnataka	0.76
6.	Madhya Pradesh	1.64
7	Maharashtra	0.59
8.	Punjab	7.18
9.	Tamil Nadu	0.04
10.	Uttar Pradesh	11.00
	Total	35.81

++ Includes the areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Source: National Commission on Agriculture, 1976.